corresponding to key area u1, then a key signal corresponding to key area u2, and finally a key signal corresponding to key area u3. As the controller receives the successive key signals, the controller **50** converts the key signals into the successive character values. In the example shown in FIG. **3**, the successive character values are 'A', 'I', and 'J', respectively. Finally, the controller **50** controls the display **40** to display the successive character values in the same location one after another by replacing the previous character value in the stream with the next character value in the stream. First, the controller **50** controls the display to display the character value 'A'. Then, the controller **50** controls the display to replace the character value 'A' with the character value 'I'. Finally, the controller **50** controls the display to replace the character value 'I' with the last of the successive character values, the character value 'J'. The controller **50** continues this process until touch input ceases (disappears) and no key signals are received from the touch pad **10**. When touch input ceases, the controller **50** moves the cursor and waits for a next character value to be inputted in the state where the character value 'J' corresponding to the key area u3 is displayed on the display **40**.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the computer system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The computer system is provided with the display **40**, the touch pad **10**, and the user selecting unit **30**, all arranged on the outside of the computer system. The computer system provides a user environment so that the user can input the character value through the user selecting unit **30**.

If the user applies pressure on the touch pad **10** using a stylus or other methods, a key signal corresponding to the key area in which the pressure was generated is made. The character value corresponding to the key area is displayed on the display **40**. If the user moves the stylus around the touch pad **10**, creating moving touch input, a stream of key signals (successive key signals) is generated and the corresponding character values are successively displayed on the display **40**. After the character value the user wants is displayed, the user may cease applying pressure to the touchpad **10**. Thereafter, the character value corresponding to the key area where the pressure ceased is displayed on the display **40** and the cursor moves to the next position.

The controller **50** stores in the storing unit **20** the respective character values preset through the user selecting unit **30** corresponding to the plural key areas of the touch pad **10**. If a key signal is generated, the controller **50** controls the character values stored in the storing unit **20** to be displayed on the basis of the generated key signal. Accordingly, the characters can be easily inputted through the touch pad **10**. Since the function of the conventional keyboard and the mouse are provided only with the touch pad **10**, the volume of the computer system is minimized so as to maximize portability. Furthermore, since characters are inputted without using part of the screen to display a virtual keyboard as compared with the conventional touch screen, the touch pad can be conveniently used without taking up space on the screen.

A control routine of the computer system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. **4**. Here, the computer system has a user environment set to input the character values. As shown in FIG. **4**, it is first determined whether touch input is generated on the touch pad **10** (S1).

If the touch input is generated, a key signal is generated corresponding to the key area in which the touch input was generated (S3). As described above, the touch pad **10** comprises the firmware. If the touch input was generated, the firmware generates the corresponding key signal and supplies the key signal to the controller **50**. Upon receiving the key signal, the controller **50** reads the character value corresponding to the key area in which the touch input has been generated in the storing unit **20** on the basis of the key signal and displays the character value on the display **40** (S5).

The controller **50** determines whether successive key signals are received from the touch pad **10** (S7). If the successive key signals were received, the controller **50** sequentially reads the successive character values corresponding to the changing key signal in the storing unit **20**. The controller **50** sequentially converts the read character value and displays the character values on the display **40** (S9).

The controller **50** determines whether the key signal disappears as the touch input generated on the touch pad **10** disappears (S11). If the key signal disappeared, the controller **50** moves the cursor so that the character value corresponding to the key area in which the key signal has disappeared can be displayed on the display **40** (S13).

If no successive key signals were generated in stage S7, the controller **50** determines whether the key signal has disappeared (S15). If it is determined that the key signal has not disappeared in the stage S15, the controller **50** displays a character value corresponding to the key signal and waits for further input (S5). If the key signal has disappeared in stage S15, the controller **50** moves the cursor S13 so that the character value corresponding to the key area in which the key signal has disappeared can be displayed on the display **40** (S13).

Accordingly, the user can easily input characters by moving the touch input on the surface of the touch pad **10** until a desired character value is displayed. Also, the functions of conventional inputting devices (e.g., keyboard and mouse) can be performed only with the touch pad **10**, thereby eliminating the need for additional input devices. In addition, the user can use the whole areas of the display **40**.

As described above, the computer system and the control method thereof according to aspects of the present invention can easily input characters through the touch pad. Also, since the function of the conventional keyboard and the mouse can be performed only with the touch pad, the computer system can be minimized, increasing portability.

The computer system can also be conveniently used without a screen interruption since characters can be inputted without using a screen to illustrate a virtual keyboard on the screen in comparison with the conventional touch screen.

The functionality of the controller and other components (such as the firmware) according to aspects of the present invention may be recorded in computer-readable media including program instructions to implement various operations embodied by a computer. The media may also include, alone or in combination with the program instructions, data files, data structures, and the like. Examples of computer-readable media include magnetic media such as hard disks, floppy disks, and magnetic tape; optical media such as CD ROM disks and DVD; magneto-optical media such as optical disks; and hardware devices that are specially configured to store and perform program instructions, such as read-only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), flash memory, and the like. The media may also be a transmission medium such as optical or metallic lines, wave guides, etc., including a carrier wave transmitting signals specifying the program instructions, data structures, etc. Examples of program instructions include both machine code, such as produced by a compiler, and files containing higher level code that may be executed by the computer using an interpreter. The described hardware devices may be configured to act as one or more software modules in order to perform the operations of the above-described embodiments of the present invention. Although a few embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in this